

CT General assembly, Appropriation committee
Regarding funding for CT DMHAS
2/2/2022

Sen. Osten, Rep. Walker and members of the committee: Thank you for allowing me the privilege to testify in regards to CT DMHAS budget. The CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has been, and still is, such a crucial part of the community. It has helped so many people in our community to get the proper help they need to get their lives back together. Our community has been hit so hard by the opioid crisis, including myself, and I've seen first hand what DMHAS and CCAR has done to help the people in need, such as myself, to become assets and no longer burdens to the community. Even under the constraints of the Cov Epidemic they've been able to assist the less fortunate members of society. I've seen and witnessed first hand the results of their work in these inflicted areas and therefore, I couldn't stress enough the importance that DMHAS and CCAR is having on the community at large. The trickle down effect has manifested in so many areas of our community and you can see the change in so many people with an Opioid Disorder and Mental Conditions. I myself am one of the positive results and successful stories of what DMHAS and CCAR has been able to do in the community with the resources that they offer. DMHAS and CCAR have saved my life and I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for DMHAS and CCAR. truthfully they've saved my life. Because of them I've learned to live life on life's terms and also stay sober. They've assisted me in many areas. They've allowed me to share my experience, strength and hope with others who struggle with addiction and Mental Health. They've given my community a safe place for people to come and address their problems. They work with people to find solutions, to adjust, to adapt and to move forward as productive members of the community. I cannot stress enough how essential DMHAS and CCAR are to the community, so therefore, I ask the committee to please continue the support for the Recovery Support Services and expand funds for DMHAS in our great state. I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this sincere and honest request and having compassion for the recovering community. We are saving lives!

Thankfully and Sincerely,
Michael Rivera